

European Parliament resolution on the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament (5 December 2002)

Caption: European Parliament resolution of 5 December 2002 on the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament.

Source: Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). 30.01.2004, No C 27 E. [s.l.]. ISSN 1725-2423. "European Parliament resolution on the draft statute for Members of the European Parliament (5 December 2002)", p. 139.

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Last updated: 21/05/2014

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P5_TA(2002)0590

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rules 42(5) and 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas at its meeting of 3 and 4 June 1999, the Cologne European Council called on the European Parliament to 'bring the question of the Statute of Members ... to a conclusion as a matter of urgency' (Conclusion 51),

B. whereas the European Parliament had already transmitted a draft Statute for Members on 3 December 1998, reaffirming it after the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 5 May 1999,

C. whereas, as provided for in the 1998 draft, a study has been drawn up by external, independent experts on the level of the allowance for Members,

D. whereas an informal agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the question of taxing the allowance for Members,

E. whereas its President has already had exploratory talks with the Member States,

F. whereas the Statute can be adopted only by its decision and whereas it is urgent to ensure that such a decision can effectively be taken,

1. Regards it as appropriate to wind up the procedure for adoption of the Statute;
2. Cites the opinion adopted by the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market (PE 294.967/rev.) for the President of the European Parliament presenting the key elements of the Statute for Members;
3. Calls on the Commission to take a position on that document;
4. Calls on the Council to bring to a conclusion the dialogue with the European Parliament, at the level of Heads of State or Government, on the practical arrangements which will lead to the adoption of the Statute;
5. Calls on the Bureau, in the light of this draft, to prepare rules on the reimbursement of expenses which should enter into force simultaneously with the Statute;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.